

MENDIP LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN



November 2008

Action plan name

Mendip Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Background

For each LBAP, there are a number of actions that are cross cutting between all of the SAPs and HAPs and relate to the day-to-day functions of the Mendip District Council, particularly in relation to development planning and policy.

The following actions are taken from the Somerset Biodiversity Strategy and detail how planning authorities should safeguard and seek to enhance biodiversity in their work. Many of these actions are simply what is necessary to comply with the law or guidelines, eg

- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)
- EU Habitats Directive
- Planning Policy Statement 9

Plan species and habitats

District	LSP Date	HAPs & SAPs
County wide		Ditches & Ponds (focusing on rare plants and invertebrates) Gardens & Urban Greenspace Hedgerows & Hedgerow Trees Roadside Verges & Greenlanes Traditional Orchards Water & Wetlands Wood Pasture, Parkland & Veteran Trees Somerset Bats Lapwing Otter
Mendip District Council	11 March	Calcareous & Neutral Grassland Field Boundaries (dry stone walls) Heathland Purple Moor & Rush Pasture Woodland Adder Long-eared Owl Mendip Bats

Mendip species and habitats by Parish

Appendix 1 is a list by Parish showing where the Mendip species currently exist or could thrive, and where the Mendip habitats are present or could be created.

Proposed partners

- The Local Authority – Mendip District Council (MDC)
- Somerset County Council (SCC)
- Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC)
- Natural England (NE)
- The Environment Agency (EA)

Target description and target goals

Target	Target goal
To fully comply with Planning Policy Statement 9 and its accompanying circular	Reduction in biodiversity loss from development and an increase in the number of significant developments where biodiversity is enhanced
Greater recognition of biodiversity and BAP criteria in the planning process.	Fewer developments affecting Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and BAP priority habitats
Ensure that the achievement of the BAP is an aim in the Community Strategy	1 relevant aim in the Community Strategy
Greater recognition of Strategic Natures Areas (SNAs) and Nature Map	Incorporate SNAs and NatureMap as an integral component into the Local Development Framework (LDF) for consideration in planning proposals.
More detailed survey information on the extent and quality of habitats within the county	Survey the extent and condition of priority habitats within SNAs, ensuring all areas close to towns are fully monitored.

Key factors

- Transfer of information (landowner details for SERC use, management plans etc)

- Training for staff involved in processing planning applications. Must understand the range of legislation and agreements that discourage or disallow development on certain habitats. In house Ecologists make this much easier.